



# Catch the eBus

Supervisor Greg Cox, representing the County, and Union Bank hosted an official ribbon cutting ceremony on March 15 at the City Heights Urban Village Recreation Center to roll out San Diego County's first e-Bus. It's a mobile technology lab loaded with 20 of the latest internet-ready Dell computers. The County and Union Bank have



*Supervisor Greg Cox, Chairman Ron Roberts and Bob McNeely, of Union Bank, encourage students to climb aboard the eBus.*

leased the bus for the next two years in order to assist low income areas of the community bridge the digital divide. Free computer classes taught by dedicated staff are offered. This effort represents a partnership between the County, Union Bank, San Diego Futures Foundation, Dell, Microsoft and the Community College Foundation. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) to sponsor the eBus and will team up with Union Bank and the San Diego Futures Foundation to manage the eBus schedule.

On hand to try out the computers were 20 enthusiastic sixth grade students from Rosa Parks Elementary School. Chairman Ron Roberts was also there to



*Sixth graders from Rosa Parks Elementary School try out computers.*

lend his support to the kick-off event in his district. This one-of-a-kind technology on wheels is available to students as well as families and seniors, and is expected to serve as many as 250,000 annually. When you see it in your neighborhood, don't forget to "Catch the eBus."

From  
**Alex's**  
D E S K



Our County of San Diego was recently ranked as one of the best managed large County governments in the country. In fact, we were tied for third overall. The study was conducted by Syracuse University in conjunction with *Governing Magazine*.

This acknowledgement affirms what I have been saying for a long time, namely that we have some of the most dedicated and talented employees in the nation. I take great pride in the employees of the Community Services Group and know that your efforts contributed to making this County a recognized national leader as evidenced by this prestigious award. Clearly, we could not have achieved such a rating without all of your collective efforts and hard work. Special recognition goes to the Department of General Services for the excellent work done in capital planning which was one of the highlighted achievements.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the work that you do on a daily basis in serving the people of San Diego. Whether it's building and renovating a library, opening new animal shelters, conducting elections flawlessly, awarding complex construction and service contracts, or bridging the digital divide — the success of the CSG staff inarguably makes a big difference in the community.

*Alex*

ALEX A. MARTINEZ  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Community Services Group

# Around the Group

## Animal Control

The much anticipated completion of the new Central Animal Shelter facility is near. The grand opening celebration of the Kroc-Copley Animal Shelter is scheduled for Friday, May 3.

Following the afternoon Grand Opening festivities on May 3, shelter animals will be moved into their new "digs," with the new shelter being "open for business" on Saturday, May 4.

The \$8 million indoor shelter facility, which was destroyed by fire nearly a year ago just before its completion, will have expanded capacity, state-of-the-art kennels, medical facilities, a grooming room, public interaction areas, interior courtyards and extensive landscaping.

The Kroc-Copley Shelter represents half of the new San Diego Campus for Animal Care with the San Diego Humane Society beginning construction immediately on its \$10 million facility next door.



## General Services

A new Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk building will be home to approximately 50 employees beginning April 22. Located at 590 Third Ave in Chula Vista, the new facility is adjacent to the South Bay County Regional Center. The architects were tasked to design a building that blended into the Regional Center as well as utilize top-of-the-line energy efficient fixtures throughout the building. A unique feature is a standing seam metal roof.

The 20,000-square-foot building will duplicate the full services that are currently available at the CAC, such as performing weddings, recording property, obtaining copies of birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, paying taxes, and looking up public records. Barbara Zell, Chief Deputy County Assessor, said, "Eric Mitchell, Project Manager, did an outstanding job coordinating the building project with the Assessor's staff, contractors, and the Pennant Alliance team. We appreciate his efforts and look forward to moving in soon."



## Housing and Community Development



Recently Housing and Community Development conducted its seventh Lease Fair within the last six months. The Lease Fairs have been effective in providing the opportunity to assist over 700 very low-income families with rental assistance through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Typically, a Section 8 participant pays only approximately 30% of their limited income toward the rent and the program pays the balance.

HCD staff – volunteering to work weekends, evenings, and increasing their individual caseloads – have taken a leadership

role in an effort to address the affordable housing shortage crisis facing our clients and communities. Staff efforts are appreciated by these most recent client comments: "best thing that ever happened to my family," "thanks for all you do for our family," "without the help of your company, I don't know how I could possibly raise my teenage children by myself," and "you guys are just the greatest and I know that people don't always say thanks."

## Library

On January 22, District 2 Supervisor Dianne Jacob was emcee at a community ribbon cutting celebration marking the opening of the relocated Casa De Oro Branch Library. This 3,889 square foot facility is in the bustling Casa de Oro Center, 9805 Campo Road, Spring Valley.

A strong advocate for libraries, Supervisor Jacob had spearheaded the Board of Supervisors' efforts to move the library to a bigger facility to better serve the needs of the community. Jacob said, "Students and adults will benefit greatly from this attractive new facility and the wonderful services and programs it can provide."

The new library meets requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jacob was joined by DCAO Alex Martinez, community supporters, and County Library staff. She shared her excitement about the new facility and the intergenerational library programs that are being established with the Mesa Valley Senior Center, located next door. Jacob invited everyone present to join the Casa de Oro Friends of the Library, who provide support for the library – the community's hub for life-long learning.



## Purchasing and Contracting

Three times a year, usually on a Saturday morning, the County of San Diego, along with over 40 different agencies, auctions off surplus equipment. Since 1984, the County and the City of San Diego have pooled their resources in one of the largest and most diversified auctions in town. Our most recent auction, held on February 2, was a great success generating over \$1 million in revenues selling such items as four lake boats, a dozen riding lawn mowers, dirt bikes, ATVs and even two trucks with snow plow attachments. We also sold a number of flat bed trailers and over 35 transit buses. The highest selling item was a full size Peterbilt dump truck that sold for over \$32,000. There were 710 bidders with just under fifty percent of them going home with something from the sale. As County

of San Diego employees you can participate. The next public auction is June 8. The County has also been selling items on e-Bay with great success. Visit our site and make a bid!



# Around the Group

## Registrar of Voters

The Registrar of Voters has just finished what many experts call one of the most complex elections in California history. Not only was it the earliest Primary Election ever held, but significant changes to election law – on top of district boundary revisions that followed the 2000 Census – caused the recent March 5 Gubernatorial Election to be operationally difficult to plan and conduct. With a \$4.5 million price tag, it was the most costly election ever held in San Diego County.

Although there were a number of significant changes to the law, the greatest impact came from a U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed the “open” primary and required California to move back to partisan primaries, where voters can only vote for candidates in their party. The Legislature added their own “twist” and allowed nonpartisan voters to vote in any



party's primary that agreed to allow their participation. Four of the seven qualified parties allowed the cross-over, and three did not. Two of the four that allowed the cross-over, didn't allow the nonpartisan voters to vote on central committee races. **Get it?** If you did, you're quicker than most.

Then add redistricting which resulted in substantially increasing the number of ballot districts in the County. This, along with the need to print party-specific ballots, increased the number of versions of sample ballots from a little over 200 in our last primary to 1,700. Nonetheless, booklets were printed and mailed to the nearly 1.4 million registered voters within the narrow timeframe that election law allows.

Elections officials and staff across the state agree that if we could make it through this one, elections to come should be a “piece of cake.”

## New Staff at CSG Headquarters



Kim Hatfield has been selected as CSG's new IT General Manager, the position formerly held by Jeff Grissom, HCD's new Assistant Director. Kim came to us from the Finance, General Government Group where she was the IT Coordinator. You may also remember working with her when she served as a County DIS Account Manager from 1997 to 1999.

A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, with a degree in Management Information Systems, she has worked for a local software firm and is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and a Certified Management Accountant. Kim lives with her husband Joe, a history and math teacher, in a house owned by their two cats Annie and Amy. In her spare time she likes cross country skiing, hiking and deconstructing the house. “Coming to Community Services feels like coming home,” said Kim.

Lawrence Jay Mesmer joins the staff of the CSG administrative office as the new ERP Manager. He will be working with departments to ensure a smooth transition to the County's new enterprise system. Although his most recent employment was in the private sector, you may also remember Larry when he worked for the County's Office of Financial Planning as a Financial Policy & Planning Officer from 1999 to 2000.

Originally from the Washington D.C. area, Larry has spent most of his career working in the consulting field. His primary focus has been at the State and local government level, which brings added value to the County.

Larry enjoys fitness and the outdoors. When not in the gym, it's a good bet you'll find him running on one of our local trails. He has a passion for photography and takes pleasure in working on his own digital artwork.

An enthusiastic welcome is extended to both Kim and Larry as they put their many talents and experience to good use within the CSG organization.



## Customer Service Pros

Congratulations to the following CSG employees who received special monetary awards and time off for providing exceptional customer service:

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** Total Dollars Distributed: \$4,518; Total Days Off 3; Movie Tickets 20. Recipients: **Dean Brock, Lori Brown, Loren Bunnell, Heidi Burke, Debrah Champion, Lenora Chavez, Scott Chilson, Victoria Christensen, Eugene Cikanek, Christine Cioe, Jordan Cruz, Linda Collins, Dan DeSousa, Patty France, Mary Kay Gagliardo, Roxanne Galeano, Ginger Garret, Darrell Hanson, Clarice Horak, Brenda Hoskyns, Frances Huls, Mark Humphrey, Tom Ignacio, Bobby Keith, Randy Kerley, Mark Koge, Noelle Leamons, Jason Ogdon, Charlene Ranger, Kathy Reyna, Cindy Reynolds, Tony Rogers, Jennifer Schutt, Sonja Harvey-Scott, Carolynne Scribner, Robin Sellers, Tiffany Shields, Yvette Steffan, Justine Taylor, Sage Vannoy, Janet Walkenhorst, Ken Winter, Lisa Worrick.**

**GENERAL SERVICES:** Total Dollars Distributed: \$8,050. Recipients: **Toroshinia Kennedy, Mike Flanagan, Judy Gervais, Rick Delainski, Jack Neeley, Scott Bennett, Bob Scott, Don Hicks, Elric Dawson, Terry Gebhardt, Chevis Fennell, Mel Chinsio, Nick Del Real, Joe Quicho, Herbert Winkler, Tom Hargraves, Dan Arce, Coreen Crowley, Felipe Arce, Eloy zetina, Moses Monroy, Nestor Edilloran, Maria Torres, Eddie Arthur.**

**HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEV:** Total Dollars Distributed: \$1,050; Movie Tickets 10. Recipients: **Dolores Diaz, George Faircloth, BJ Gloudon, Sheryl Gaunt, Macia Ingram, Jafar Izadi, Kevin Ky, Albert Sakr, Ronda Bray, Gloria Butler, Ron Barefield, Mike Dececchi, Dolores Diaz, Sharon Ford, Manuel Galvan, Marcia Ingram, Lorene Kellog, Bonnie Petrach.**



# KUDOS Corner

## Animal Control

*"On behalf of the City Council, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the outstanding assistance Animal Control Lieutenant **Danielle Spilker** and Officer **Anthony Rogers** provided our community. Please extend to them our warm gratitude for all that they did to help us...their work truly represents your Board's commitment to being a great neighbor!"*

Thomas M. Campbell, Mayor  
City of Solana Beach

## General Services

*"I want to take this opportunity to commend **David Vaughan** for the outstanding job he did on the El Cajon heating, air conditioning, and roofing project...David's professionalism and ability to complete the job with minimum disruption to the staff made this undertaking much easier than it otherwise would have been."*

Gregory J. Smith  
County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk

## Housing & Community Development

*"**Mr. [Clint] Magoffin** was wonderful! He knew of my disability...and did much to expedite the paperwork...He made what could have been a very bad experience very positive."*

Anita Johnson  
Vista, CA

## Library

*Staff at **Fletcher Hills** and **Santee Branch Libraries**:*

*"I'm visiting the Santee Branch Library while the Fletcher Hills Branch on Garfield Ave is closed for remodeling. The entire staff at the Fletcher Hills Library have been particularly courteous throughout the years....As I came through the door at Santee the staff person smiled, asked if she could help and pointed me in the right direction and walked with me until I found what I was looking for. I'm 80 years old and appreciated her help and attitude. I was pleasantly surprised also by the re-do of the Santee Branch..."*

Betty Whitcomb

## Purchasing and Contracting

*"Many thanks to you [**Winston McColl**] and your staff for the fast turn-around on the District 4 Purchase Orders. Excellent customer service."*

Jim Browning  
Clerk of the Board Office

## Registrar of Voters

*"We have lived in five states and approximately 15 voting locations. Your people [**Dottie Anderson, Shannon Bowman** and **Nevada Jane Sorenson**] are the best, most helpful, pleasant folks we have ever dealt with."*

Betty and Jack Gogek

# DIBBS AWARDS

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** **Marion Morris** was awarded \$50 for her suggestion to use a telephone reference guide that she developed in the Phone Center.

**GENERAL SERVICES:** **Judy Gervais** was awarded \$2,970 for her suggestion to use an advanced patented technology from Precision Lighting to install a part in the ballasts of fluorescent lights to reduce electrical budget costs; **Tim Caulder**, was awarded \$50 for his suggestion to install clearer and more highly visible signs on the Medical Examiner's building.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:** **Jeanne Conover** was awarded \$145 for her suggestion that streamlined the Batching Process; **Caesar Bolchini, Sally Chapman, Jane McClure, Pauline Glaser** were awarded \$2,107 (\$527 each) for their suggestion to eliminate Affidavit Microfiche; **Marci Nylund** and **Maria Alvarado** were each awarded \$50 for their idea to create fixed locations via mail; **Bernadine Davis** was awarded \$50 for her suggestion to streamline the Mail Desk Duties and \$50 for her idea to use Reject Letter instead of Replace Yellow Label.

# Service Awards

CSG congratulates the following dedicated employees who have provided from 5 to 30 years of service to the County.

NAME	YEARS	DEPT
Carolyn Brain	30 Years	LIB
Pedro Carrasco	30 Years	DGS
Teddy Crisostomo	30 Years	DGS
Nicholas Del Real Jr.	30 Years	DGS
Sonya Heiserman	30 Years	LIB
Jackie Jackson	30 Years	LIB
Lynne Diamond	25 Years	HCD
John Durante	25 Years	DGS
Robert Gould	25 Years	DGS
Robert Simmons	25 Years	DGS
Carlos Amezcua	20 Years	DGS
Patricia Winneguth	20 Years	LIB
Christopher Babick	15 Years	DGS
Ricardo Bravo	15 Years	DGS
Mike Dececchi	15 Years	HCD
Jill Jones	15 Years	DAC
Carl Killpack	15 Years	DGS
Olivia G. Lansangan	15 Years	DAC
Dennis Leszczynski	15 Years	DGS
Myrna Manaloto	15 Years	HCD
Steve Martinez	15 Years	DGS
Jane McClure	15 Years	ROV
Benjamin Orallo	15 Years	DGS
Kenny Ho	15 Years	DGS
David Vigil	15 Years	DGS
Barbara Walther	15 Years	ROV
Ginger M. Garrett	5 Years	DAC
Pauline Glaser	5 Years	ROV
Diana Kumlér	5 Years	LIB
Jesus Del Real	5 Years	DGS
Dolores Woodford	5 Years	DGS



The Community Services Group newsletter is published quarterly for the employees of the Group.

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Editor

Sheila Trovaten

Phone: (619) 531-5280

E-mail: [strovach@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:strovach@co.san-diego.ca.us)

Layout/Graphics

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